Ready to facilitate govt-opposition dialogue: NA speaker

By Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq on Wednesday reiterated his offer to facilitate a dialogue between the government and the opposition parties.

The offer was made by the speaker at a time when the opposition members belonging to the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) were protesting in the assembly during the passage of the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill.

Addressing PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, the speaker stated that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, while addressing the House, had repeatedly invited the opposition to hold talks. Besides this, he said Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar had also extended similar invitations on multiple occasions.

"I, as speaker of the National Assembly, am ready to facilitate dialogue between the government and the opposition," said Mr Sadiq, emphasising that "when both sides sit together, solutions will emerge."

"Even if no outcome is achieved on the first day, continued dialogue will eventually lead to positive results. It is my responsibility to provide a platform for both sides to engage in talks," he added.

Responding to remarks made by Gohar Ali Khan, the speaker said, "When your side proposed the formation of a negotiation committee, you did not approach me. The prime minister, demonstrating magnanimity, constituted a high-level negotiation committee comprising all coalition partners."

The committee, he recalled, held three meetings, and it was not the government but the opposition that boycotted the process.

"The process of dialogue must continue it will yield better outcomes. My role is to facilitate; the decision ultimately lies with you", he declared. "I have defeated your leader twice in elections. In the recent election, not a single petition was filed against me neither challenging my victory nor the results from my constituency. How, then, can it be said that we are not the true representatives of the people?"

He urged the opposition to accept his invitation for talks, stressing that "constructive engagement will bring solutions, while confrontation will lead nowhere."

"You advocate for dialogue with India, Afghanistan, and Iran yet that too requires sitting together and talking. Let us begin by talking here, within our own House," he said.

Cops booked for 'torturing woman to death'

NAROWAL: Police have registered a first information report (FIR) for murder against nine people, including a station house officer (SHO) and six police personnel, following the death of a woman allegedly tortured during a police raid in Sialkot.

The complaint was filed by Riaz Ahmed Bajwa, a resident of village Dhe in Narowal. He said on the night of Nov 11-12, Qila Kallarwala (Sialkot) SHO Najam Shah, along with six of his subordinates, raided his home. The raiding team allegedly entered the house by breaking the outer wall, violating the sanctity of the home.

The officials inquired about Riaz Ahmed Bajwa's son, Amanat Ali.

When Bajwa's wife, Safia Bibi, asked the police for the reason for the raid, the SHO allegedly ordered his subordinates to torture her.

Bajwa alleged that police personnel along with two others Muhammad Waris and Ziaullah pushed and attacked his wife.

The raiding team left the house when Safia Bibi's condition became critical.

She died on way to the Narowal District Headquarters Hospital. — Correspondent

ISLAMABAD police officials carry out investigations at the site of the Tuesday's suicide blast outside the districts courts in Islamabad's G-11 sector on Wednesday. — Photo by Mohammad Asim

Lawyers observe strike as Islamabad court blast prompts sweeping security overhaul

Only judges allowed inside judicial complex amid heightened security, restricted access

By Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: Lawyers in the federal capital observed a strike and the District Courts Complex remained closed on Wednesday following the suicide blast outside the courts that claimed the lives of at least a dozen people, prompting authorities to introduce sweeping new security measures across the premises.

The District Bar Association had directed lawyers, clerks and litigants not to attend court. District Bar President Naeem Gujar and other office-bearers appealed to the legal community to stay home.

The bar association announced a three-day mourning period and a one-day strike, while the Islamabad Bar Council also declared a three-day strike in protest against the tragic incident.

Due to the strike, clerks were barred from entering the court premises. The court staff rescheduled all pending cases, displaying updated cause lists outside the complex and instructing clerks to appear on the next hearing date. As a result, proceedings in more than a thousand cases were adjourned.

Only judges were allowed inside the complex amid heightened security and restricted access.

In response to the incident, a high-level meeting was held at the District Courts Complex to review and strengthen security arrangements. The meeting was attended by Islamabad High Court (IHC) judges Justice Muhammad Azam Khan and Justice Raja Inaam Ameen Minhas, District and Sessions Judges Nasir Javed Rana and Muhammad Yar Gondal, IHC Bar President Wajid Gilani, Secretary Manzoor Jaja and senior police officials, including the DIG Security and AIG Special Branch.

During the briefing, officials outlined a comprehensive plan to bolster the complex's security. It was decided that walk-through gates and scanners would be installed at all entrances, and visitors' luggage would be allowed only after clearance through scanners.

A zigzag grill will also be erected at the main entry point to regulate movement, while the deployment of snipers on rooftops for surveillance was proposed.

The meeting further decided to conduct training and mock exercises for lawyers and staff to prepare them for emergency situations. Special Branch personnel will be stationed at the entry gates for security checks, and an ambulance will remain permanently parked outside the complex.

To ensure full vigilance, the use of mobile phones by on-duty security personnel will be restricted.

Later, IHC judges Justice Muhammad Azam Khan and Justice Raja Inaam Ameen Minhas visited the judicial complex along with Sessions Judge Nasir Javed Rana, IHC Bar President Wajid Gilani and District Bar President Naeem Gujar.

The visiting judges were briefed on the details of the blast and the new security measures being implemented to prevent any recurrence of such incidents.

Chief justice directs police to strengthen security at courts

IGP reviews security arrangements in the province

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Lahore High Court (LHC) Chief Justice Aalia Neelum on Wednesday issued an immediate directions to police authorities to further strengthen security arrangements in all courts across Punjab.

The chief justice observed that ensuring the safety and protection of judges, court staff, lawyers and the litigants, was the foremost priority of the judiciary, said a statement.

Expressing deep grief and sorrow over the recent tragic act of terrorism outside the Islamabad district courts, the chief justice said that such incidents highlighted the urgent need to reinforce the security and sanctity of the judicial system.

She directed the concerned police authorities to identify and rectify any potential security lapses at the LHC and district courts, ensuring that all available resources were utilised to achieve foolproof protection.

The statement said that in compliance with the instructions of CJ Neelum, security measures had been further tightened at the LHC and all judicial complexes of the province. Modern walk-through gates, metal detectors and complete body search had been reinforced at all entry and exit points, it added.

Furthermore, 24-hour CCTV surveillance cameras had been enhanced inside and outside of the court premises to promptly detect any suspicious activity and enable swift action.

Additionally, secret monitoring and improved security protocols had also been implemented in parking areas to ensure maximum safety and convenience for both lawyers and the litigants.

Meanwhile, Punjab Inspector General of Police (IGP) Dr Usman Anwar chaired a meeting via video-link to review the security, law and order, and other matters at the Central Police Office.

The IGP directed that security arrangements across the province, including Lahore, be made more effective. He said that in view of the current security situation, the police were put on high alert at courts, judges' residential areas, Chinese projects, judicial complexes, and other sensitive locations.

Dr Anwar said that under the supervision of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), combing and search operations were being conducted at important routes and sensitive locations at an accelerated pace. Checking at inter-provincial border police checkposts, entry, and exit points had also been further tightened.

The IGP said that the security audit of sensitive locations had been completed, while a foolproof plan was formulated after a comprehensive review of the security of all judicial complexes. The monitoring and coverage of Safe City cameras had been extended to all judicial complexes, he added.

IG Punjab said that any vehicles entering judicial complexes would now require a special sticker and no unauthorised vehicle would be allowed on the court premises.

Search and sweep operations of judges' routes were being carried out on a daily basis, he added.

Dr Anwar directed officers to further accelerate the deportation of illegally residing Afghan nationals and other foreigners from the province.

Leaves of police personnel cancelled in wake of suicide attack

RAWALPINDI: All police leaves, including those already granted, have been cancelled in the wake of the suicide attack in the federal capital, and officers and officials have been instructed to return to their units immediately.

According to sources, the inspector general of police Islamabad has issued an order regarding cancellation of all leaves of the police officers and officials with immediate effect and report back to their respective unit or division.

In an order to all DIGs, AIGs and SSPs of Islamabad police, the AIG Establishment on behalf of the IGP directed that in view of the prevailing law and order situation, no leave whatsoever to any officer and official of the police shall be granted until further orders, except in case of genuine emergency duly approved by the competent authority.

"All leaves already granted stand cancelled with immediate effect. The concerned officers and officials are directed to report back to their respective unit or division," the order stated.

On the other hand, due to the recent security situation, the Rawalpindi police have decided to launch search operations across the district to monitor and root out extremist elements.

A police spokesman said that in view of the current security situation in Rawalpindi, police have been placed on "high alert" and decided to launch search operations across the city.

City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Hamdani said the purpose of the search operations is to monitor and root out anti-social and evil elements.

Rawalpindi police are always ready and determined to protect the country, nation and citizens. All steps are being taken to ensure peace and order in the city, the spokesman said.

The Punjab Home Department has also directed the regional police officers (RPOs), all divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners, IG Police Special Branch, CTD and others relevant authorities to beef up the security apparatus across Punjab, particularly in high value, sensitive and densely populated areas by taking all necessary measures.

A senior police officer said security had been beefed up in the city in line with the provincial government's directive as police patrolling has been increased and random checking of vehicles has been initiated, in addition to launching search operations.—Mohammad Asghar

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VICE CHANCELLOR

No. DUET/VC/Show-Cause/ZAB/2025
07th November 2025

Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto
Assistant Director (BPS-17),
Director Banglows # 1 streel town
Bin Qasim, Karachi

FINAL SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

WHEREAS you, Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Assistant Director (BPS-17), Information & Communication Technology (ICT), Dawood University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi, are alleged to have committed the following acts of misconduct as found from the record on following facts:

i. You are unauthorizedly absent from DUET duties with effect from 26-06-2025 to to date without prior approval.
ii. You were issued (03) three Explanation Calls vide dated 31st July 2025, 8th August 2025 & 22nd August 2025 respectively, despite this, you have not rejoined DUET so far.
iii. These were followed by a Show Cause Notice issued on 24-09-2025, but no response / compliance has been submitted by you, which comes under the purview of misconduct.
iv. Since you are absconding from your duties, this amounts to misconduct under the DUET Statutes/Rules.

2. In compliance with the decision of the 22nd Syndicate vide Resolution No. 22.3 (iii), I, Vice Chancellor, Dawood University of Engineering and Technology as an Authorized Officer
a) am of the opinion that the above factual position prima facie reveals that you are found guilty of gross negligence in attending to your duties and ignoring official orders, which is tantamount to serious misconduct in terms of the Employees Efficiency & Disciplinary Statutes-2021 (Amended-2024) of DUET and calls for imposition of the major penalty of **termination / dismissal from service;** and
b) have decided that it is not necessary to have an inquiry conducted through an Inquiry Officer or an Inquiry Committee in terms of Section-6(3) of E&D Statutes-2021 (Amended-2024) of DUET.

3. I, being authorized officer, call upon you through this Show Cause Notice to report for duty immediately at DUET. You are accordingly directed to explain your position in writing within 14(fourteen) days of the date of receipt of this notice as to why a penalty, including the major penalty of **termination / dismissal from service** as provided in Section-4 of Employees Efficiency & Disciplinary Statutes-2021 (Amended-2024), may not be imposed upon you, failing which an ex-parte decision will be taken against you.

4. You may also intimate whether you would like to be heard in person.

Vice Chancellor-DUET

PID(K)1666/25

Experts warn of AI's use in warfare at Margalla Dialogue

By Kalbe Ali

ISLAMABAD: The second day of the Margalla Dialogue saw intellectuals and policymakers expressing concern over the widespread use of AI in modern warfare and emphasising the need for regional integration and connectivity.

The keynote speaker at the event, Federal Minister for IT and Telecom Shaza Fatima Khawaja, said technology has brought about a revolution in the world, and AI has attained an inevitable status.

She said the nature of warfare is shifting toward computing power, data and algorithms, and Pakistan cannot afford to lag behind in this race for modernisation. She recalled how Pakistan was coping with the emerging realities of AI and its advancements and informed the audience about the country's roadmap to deal with the changing dynamics of new inventions.

She said there are vast opportunities, and Pakistan has all the necessary ingredients in the form of technical experts, start-ups and strong government support.

"We are promoting production in both software and hardware sectors, and in the battle for truth, the situation has been handled effectively," Ms Khawaja remarked.

Kazakhstan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Yerzhan Kistafin, said his country shares more than 7,000 kilometres of border with Russia, a distance equal to that from London to New York, and is the largest landlocked country in the region.

He called for a collective strategy to deal with issues such as drug trafficking, terrorism and connectivity, apart from investment.

He pointed out that Pakistan and Kazakhstan possess a trade potential of more than $14 billion.

Speakers noted that Afghanistan's biggest dilemma was the lack of recognition from the international community, yet regional states continue to support the war-torn country through transit trade, commercial interaction and by hosting refugees.

They remarked that only a multilateral approach can help overcome this situation and foster trust and tranquility.

Former chairman joint chiefs of staff committee (CJCSC) retired Lt Gen Ehsanul Haq said Pakistan wants to move forward on connectivity, but certain elements hinder progress, referring to Afghanistan.

He said that more than four years of dialogue with the Taliban had proven futile, forcing Pakistan to take action against terrorist sanctuaries there, while it continued to provide trade and humanitarian assistance.

He added that regional initiatives like the Moscow Format and Tashkent Dialogue should bear fruit in nudging the Taliban government towards peace.

Idrees Zaman, former Afghan diplomat, noted that peace in the region cannot be achieved without a stable Afghanistan and that regional coherence is essential for stability.

He also said peace in Afghanistan cannot be outsourced, and it was time to move from uncertainty to predictability.

Director Research IPRI retired Brig Dr Raashid Wali Janjua highlighted that AI is redefining warfare just as it is redefining human existence, and for the first time in human history, nature, grammar and character are all changing together due to the weaponisation of AI.

"Gaza, Ukraine and Pakistan-India wars have showcased the first baby steps of AI-assisted weaponry. There is a need for global consensus on amendments to international humanitarian law to put legal guardrails on the use of AI in a fully autonomous role," he added.

Javed Jabbar spoke on the importance of soft power and the evolution of nations, saying that the hard component of grey power is something Pakistan possesses but does not deploy or use.

He said it is very easy to capture an image of a burning building or people killing each other, but not where people are healing and helping each other.

20 farmers fined for stubble burning

By Our Correspondent

NAROWAL: As many as 20 farmers have been fined a total of Rs300,000 between Oct 1 and Nov 12 for stubble burning in Sialkot district.

This was said by Sialkot Agriculture Deputy Director (extension) Sajjad Haider while giving a briefing about the measures taken to control smog.

He said that actions against stubble burning were carried out in Daska, Pasrur, and Sambrial tehsils, while no report of such incidents was received from the Sialkot tehsil. He said that fines amounting to Rs120,000 in Daska, Rs150,000 in Pasrur, and Rs30,000 in Sambrial were imposed during this period.

He said that special announcements were made in local mosques, urging the farmers to avoid burning stubble. A total of 1,266 mosques across the district made these announcements, he added.